

Message Text

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P R 190925Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4504

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 6621

DEFENSE FOR DSAA/ISA (SA)

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ID US

SUBJ: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF: STATE 119079 (DTG 141703Z MAY 76)

1. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND RETENTION OF US DEFENSE LIAISON GROUP (MAAG EQUIVALENT IN INDONESIA) AND CONSIDER IT HIGH PRIORITY IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS.

2. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS APPROVED AND PRESENTED TO CONGRESS PROPOSALS FOR CONTINUED SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA AT SUBSTANTIAL LEVELS. OUR CURRENT (FY 76) PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL \$38.1 MILLION, INCLUDING \$13 MILLION GRANT EQUIPMENT, \$2 MILLION GRANT TRAINING, AND \$23.1 MILLION FMS CREDIT. OUR REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR FY 77 TOTALS \$47.4 MILLION, CONSISTING OF \$21.3 MILLION GRANT EQUIPMENT, \$3 MILLION GRANT TRAINING, AND \$23.1 MILLION IN FMS CREDIT.

3. THESE PROGRAMS REFLECT FACT THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS KEY ELEMENT IN US-INDONESIAN RELATIONS. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROVIDES US AN IMPORTANT MEANS TO ADVANCE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION AND INFLUENCE WITH ITS LEADERSHIP. INDONESIA'S LEADERS
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ARE MILITARY MEN, WHO ATTACH HIGH PRIORITY TO CONTINUED

AVAILABILITY OF US MILITARY AID, BOTH BECAUSE IT SUPPLEMENTS THEIR OWN LIMITED RESOURCES AND ALLOWS THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR ESTABLISHED POLICY OF GIVING BUDGETARY PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BECAUSE, WITH COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN INDOCHINA, THEY FEEL MORE PRESSING NEED TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN FORCES. IN PAST YEAR THEY HAVE REITERATED TO US AT HIGHEST LEVEL THEIR INTEREST IN CONTINUED AND INCREASED US MILITARY AID, AND WE AGREED TO SPECIAL US-GOI MILITARY TALKS IN SEPT 1975 THAT SERVED AS BASIS FOR FORMULATION OF OUR CURRENT PROGRAMS.

4. IF WE ARE TO ATTAIN MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE EFFORT, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE A PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED STAFF HEADED BY A SENIOR OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM. GIVEN SIZE OF PROGRAM, PRESENT LIMITED MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES, AND PREEMINENT POLITICAL POSITION OF INDONESIAN MILITARY, WE CANNOT MAKE DO WITH TOKEN PRESENCE OR MR LIAISON STAFF. IN ADDITION TO PLANNING AND MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANT COMMODITY AND TRAINING PROGRAMS, DLG PERSONNEL PROVIDE VALUABLE FOLLOW-ON SUPPORT IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE, SUPPLY, AND OPERATION OF US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT. FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, DLG PERMANENT STAFF PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE INDONESIAN MILITARY WHICH IS NOT DUPLICATED BY ANY OTHER ELEMENT OF MISSION.

5. SEVERAL ON-GOING PROGRAMS CAN BE MENTIONED WHICH WILL REQUIRE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF PERMANENTLY-ASSIGNED MILITARY PERSONNEL BEYOND FY 77. THESE INCLUDE THE \$18 MILLION INDOCOM (NATIONAL MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM) PROJECT; SURABAYA SHIPYARD, WHERE US PERSONNEL ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND MATERIEL SUPPORT FOR US-ORIGIN SHIPS; INTEGRATION OF OV-10F AIRCRAFT INTO INDONESIAN AIR FORCE AND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE INDONESIAN ARMY'S QUICK REACTION CAPABILITY, AIR MOBILITY, COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS, LOGISTICS, AND TRANSPORTATION. IN ADDITION, DLG PERSONNEL WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAM, WHICH IS IMPORTANT BOTH TO PROVIDE THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES WITH TECHNICAL SKILLS AND ALSO AS MEANS OF BUILDING CONTINUING TIES WITH INDONESIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

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6. PRINCIPAL ALTERNATIVES FOR MAAG PRESENCE AFTER FY 1977 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. MAINTAIN DLG ESSENTIALLY AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED. THIS WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGES OF (1) MAINTAINING MAXIMUM CONTACT WITH INDONESIAN MILITARY, (2) CONTINUING US INFLUENCE ON INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING, TRAINING, FORCE STRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED FMS EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, AND

OPERATIONS AND LOGISTICS; (3) PROVIDING TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING US INTEREST IN INDONESIA'S SECURITY ASSISTANCE NEEDS; (4) AND ALLOWING US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH INDONESIAN MILITARY VALUES AND NEEDS. IDEALLY, DLG SHOULD HAVE AS OBJECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INDONESIAN CAPABILITIES, AND SHOULD CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

B. LIMITED DLG STAFF. FUNCTIONS OF REDUCED-STRENGTH DLG WOULD DEPEND ON SIZE OF STAFF. CUTS BELOW PRESENT LEVEL WOULD MEAN PROPORTIONATE DECREASES IN DLG CAPABILITY TO MONITOR UTILIZATION OF US-FURNISHED EQUIPMENT, PROVIDE MEANINGFUL TECHNICAL ADVICE, OR INFLUENCE GOI THINKING IN AREAS OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING, FORCE STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONS AND LOGISTICS. IF SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS WERE MADE, DLG WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO LIMIT ITSELF TO PROVIDING FACILITATIVE SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH TRAINING, PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES FOR EXISTING SYSTEMS, AND PURCHASE OF NEW SYSTEMS. SHRINKING DLG WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE LESS AND LESS CONTACT WITH INDONESIAN MILITARY, WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY SEE STAFF REDUCTION AS SIGN OF DECREASING US INTEREST IN INDONESIA'S SECURITY NEEDS.

C. THREE-OFFICER DLG STAFF. THIS MINIMAL PRESENCE WOULD ALLOW FOR INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS THROUGH FMS AND PERMIT US TO CONTINUE TRAINING PROGRAM WITH ATTENDANT BENEFITS IN TERMS OF INFLUENCING INDONESIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LOSE THE VALUABLE BROAD CONTACT WITH MILITARY POSSIBLE THROUGH A FULLY-STAFFED DLG. GOI FEELING RE DECREASING US INTEREST WOULD BE HEIGHTENED.

7. OF THESE ALTERNATIVES, WE FAVOR RETENTION OF EXISTING DLG STRUCTURE, AS MOST CONDUCTIVE TO EFFECTIVE MAIN-
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TENANCE OF US INTERESTS SERVED BY OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL COULD BE SUBJECT TO SOME VARIATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, CHIEF USDLG, IN RESPONSE TO CINCPAC REQUEST, HAS ALREADY PROVIDED LIST OF 13 POSITIONS WHICH MIGHT BE ELIMINATED IF NECESSARY WITH PRIORITIES INDICATED.
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